

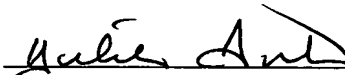
REMARKS:

The claims have been amended to conform to US practice. If it would be considered helpful in resolving any issues in the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Amend claims:

1. (currently amended) A ~~[[P]]~~ pigmentable binder composition for use in synthetic asphalt, ~~which said composition comprises~~ing a petroleum resin, a lubricating oil and/or a lubricating oil extract, and in the range of from 0.05 to less than 3 % wt based on total composition of an amide additive of general formula:



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each independently represent alkyl groups having in the range of from 10 to 60 carbon atoms, and x is an integer in the range of from 1 to 4.

2. (currently amended) The ~~[[P]]~~ pigmentable binder composition ~~as claimed in of claim 1, which further comprises~~ing a polymer.

3. (currently amended) The ~~[[P]]~~ pigmentable binder composition ~~as claimed in of claim 1 or claim 2,~~ wherein the resin is an acidic resin, having an acid value in the range of from 0.5 to 200 mg KOH/g.

4. (currently amended) The ~~[[P]]~~ pigmentable binder composition ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the resin is a modified petroleum resin comprising carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid anhydride or hydroxyl groups.

5. (currently amended) The ~~[[P]]~~ pigmentable binder composition ~~as claimed in of claim 4~~ ~~[[,]]~~ wherein the resin is a modified petroleum resin obtainable by treating a petroleum resin with maleic anhydride.

6. (currently amended) The ~~[[P]]~~ pigmentable binder composition ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5,~~ wherein the lubricating oil and/or lubricating oil extract is a Bright-Stock extract.

7. (currently amended) The ~~[[P]]~~ pigmentable binder composition ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6,~~ wherein the amide additive of general formula (I) is an ethylene bis-stearamide.

8. (currently amended) ~~The [[P]]pigmentable binder composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, which comprises in the range of from~~ wherein the petroleum resin is present in an amount of 1 to 70 % wt of a petroleum resin; 20 to 97 % wt of a the lubricating oil and/or a the lubricating oil extract is present in an amount of 20 to 97 % wt ; 0.1 to less than 3 % wt of an the amide additive of general formula (I) is present in an amount of 0.1 to less than 3 % wt; and optionally a polymer is present in the range of from 1 to 15 % wt ~~of a polymer~~, all weights based on total composition.
9. (currently amended) ~~A [[S]]synthetic asphalt comprising a mixture of aggregate and a the pigmentable binder as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.~~
10. (currently amended) ~~Use of a~~ A synthetic mastic asphalt comprising the pigmentable binder composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 in synthetic mastic asphalt.
11. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 2 wherein the resin is an acidic resin, having an acid value in the range of from 0.5 to 200 mg KOH/g.
12. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 2 wherein the resin is a modified petroleum resin comprising carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid anhydride or hydroxyl groups.
13. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 12 wherein the resin is a modified petroleum resin obtainable by treating a petroleum resin with maleic anhydride.
14. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 2 wherein the lubricating oil and/or lubricating oil extract is a Bright-Stock extract.
15. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 11 wherein the lubricating oil and/or lubricating oil extract is a Bright-Stock extract.
16. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 2 wherein the amide additive of general formula (I) is an ethylene bis-stearamide.

17. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 11 wherein the amide additive of general formula (I) is an ethylene bis-stearamide.
18. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 12 wherein the amide additive of general formula (I) is an ethylene bis-stearamide.
19. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 14 wherein the amide additive of general formula (I) is an ethylene bis-stearamide.
20. (new) The pigmentable binder composition of claim 2 wherein the petroleum resin is present in an amount of 1 to 70 % wt, the lubricating oil and/or the lubricating oil extract is present in an amount of 20 to 97 % wt, the amide additive of general formula (I) is present in an amount of 0.1 to less than 3 % wt, and the polymer is present in the range of from 1 to 15 % wt, all weights based on total composition.
21. (new) A synthetic asphalt comprising a mixture of aggregate and the pigmentable binder of claim 2.
22. (new) A synthetic mastic asphalt comprising the pigmentable binder composition of claim 2.